

*Variations in Bulimus exilis.*

Dr. Benjamin Sharp called attention to two varieties of *Bulimus exilis* which he had found on the islands of Guadeloupe and Dominica. One variety was characterized by broad dark brown bands which run parallel with the coil of the shell, while the other was peculiar in possessing small and very faint bands, which in many specimens were entirely absent. The banded variety was found to be common in Guadeloupe, while the bandless one was rare. In Dominica, which is separated from Guadeloupe by a channel of only twenty-three miles, the banded variety was very rare, while the light or bandless one was comparatively common, although individuals were by no means so common in Dominica as in Guadeloupe. He spoke of the probable cause of the variation, and suggested that it was due to some environmental action. The island of Dominica being wholly of volcanic origin would produce a different kind of food from the Grande Terre portion of Guadeloupe, which in formation is purely coral. It was on this portion of Guadeloupe that the specimens of *B. exilis* were collected. It is known that Dominica has many species and some genera of plants that are peculiar to the island, and this difference of food may in some way account for the differences in this species of land-snail. Dr. Sharp said that it is probable that the dearth of land-shells on the volcanic islands and their comparative plenty on the coral and continental islands of the Caribbean group is due to the absence of carbonate of lime in the former and its presence in the latter.

*Remarks on the Exuvie of Snakes.*

Dr. Benjamin Sharp further spoke on the exuvie of two snakes, which were shed in the laboratory of the Academy two days previously. These snakes, *Eutaenia sirtalis*, B. & G., had been presented to the Academy on the 19th of March, 1890, and had been captured the day before in New Jersey. The whole process of shedding the skin had been observed. One of the snakes was in the water when first seen, and, coming out upon the sod, it shrugged and shook itself for a moment; then, getting between the glass of the vivarium and the box containing the earth, the skin parted at the jaws and the animal crawled out, leaving the exuvia. The cerebral portion being fixed, the animal passed through the opening, so that the discarded skin, as is always the case, was turned wrong side out. One of the specimens was interesting as it was entirely perfect, without the slightest rent and not a scale missing. The other was perfect, but there was a considerable rent on each side of the jaw. The operation took less than one minute. The snake was startled about the middle of the process. It crawled away from the exuvia very rapidly.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, April 15, 1890, pp. 148 and 149.